

cont the control box is in electric communication with the motor that controls the speed of revolution of the ball isolating wheel.

A7 19. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 18 wherein the control box further includes a control for varying the feed interval between balls presented for play of the ball feed device.

21. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein the propulsion head includes a ball propulsion head for presenting tennis balls to a player practicing the game.

A8 22. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein the ball propulsion device includes three ball driving wheels each independently driven a motor dedicated to that particular wheel.

23. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein ball propulsion device further includes three ball propelling wheels and the revolution speed of the three wheels are independently controlled.

24. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein further includes at least one handles mounted on an elongate member.

REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF PATENTABILITY

This is in response to the office action dated April 9, 2002.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract and has made a series of rejections based on 35 USC 112. The Examiner is thanked for his thorough and thoughtful search. However, Objections based on 35 USC 103 have not been discussed further herein since they are directed toward claims 25-27, now cancelled.

The Examiner has noted that claims 1-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections based on 35 USC 112. Each of the various objections has been addressed regarding the claims has been addressed, and the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. A new Abstract of the Invention has been offered and is believed to meet all the standards required by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant hereby respectfully requests that the Examiner promptly issue a notice of allowance.

Certificate of Mailing

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

on September 26, 2000

Charles Hartman
July 8, 2002

Charles Hartman

July 8, 2002

Date

Respectfully submitted;

Charles Hartman

Charles Hartman

Reg No. 29,648

P.O. Box 926

Reno, Nevada 89505

(775) 327-4943 fax (775) 327-4993

MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (amended) An apparatus for propelling balls for game practice comprising:

a base member contacting a fixed support member having an integral vertically extending member, the vertically extending member terminating in a first dual hinge;

a lifting arm, including an upper elongate member having a first end and a second end and a lower elongate member having a first end and a second end, the upper elongate member attached to the first dual hinge at a first end and the lower elongate member rotatably attached to the first dual hinge at a first end, the upper elongate member and the lower elongate member mounted substantially parallel to each other;

a compression resistant member having a first end and a second end, the first end attached to the base member and the second end attached to the lower member of the lifting arm;

X a movable vertically extending member having a second dual hinge, the second dual hinge rotatably attached to the second end of the upper elongate member and rotatably attached to the second end of the lower elongate member, such that the upper elongate member, the lower elongate member, the first dual hinge and the second dual hinge form a deformable parallelogram that maintains the orientation of a [the] ^{the movable} vertically extending member relative to the base member; ^

an oscillating bracket rotatable about the vertical axis attached to the movable vertically extending member;

a ball propulsion device supported by and rotatable about a horizontal axis attached to a [the] serving head support bracket; and

a ball delivery guide feeding balls to the ball propulsion device mounted on the serving head support bracket.

4. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein a [the] control box is in electric communication with a motor driving each one of [the] three propelling motors.

5. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein a [the] control box includes a control for left spin, right spin, and top and bottom spin.

6. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein the balls are impelled by a plurality of driven wheels, further including a [the] control box is in electric communication with each motor [the motor] that controls the speed of revolution of [the driven wheel] each one of three propelling motors.

7. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein [the] a control box further includes a control for the feed interval for the ball feed device

9. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein the ball propulsion device includes a head for throwing tennis balls.

10. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 1 wherein the ball propulsion device [the head] includes [3] three wheels each independently driven by 3 motors.

11. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim [1] 10 wherein the revolution speed of the [3] three wheels are independently controlled.

13. (amended) An apparatus for propelling balls for game practice comprising:

a main frame, including an attached control box, having a dual hinge;
a deformable parallelogram lifting arm, having a first end and a second end, attached at its first end to the dual hinge on the main frame;

a movable vertically extending member, rotatably receiving and supported by the second end of the lifting arm at a first end;

an oscillating bracket, disposed at a second end ^{of the movable vert ext member} having at least one upwardly extending arm, rotatable around a vertical axis;

a ball propulsion device mounted on the oscillating bracket to be horizontally rotatable; and

feed support attached to the oscillating bracket above the ball propulsion device providing a source of balls for the ball propulsion device.

16. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein the ball propulsion device further includes three ball propelling wheels and the control box is in electric communication with each motor driving each of three ball propelling wheels of the ball propulsion device.

18. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein the ball propulsion device further includes a ball isolating wheel and the control box is in electric communication with the motor that controls the speed of revolution of the ball isolating wheel.

19. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 18 wherein the control box further includes a control for varying the feed interval between [ball] balls presented for play of the ball feed device.

21. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim [1] 13 wherein the propulsion head includes a ball propulsion head for presenting tennis balls to a player practicing the game.

22. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein [the ball propulsion head] the ball propulsion device includes three ball driving wheels each independently driven a motor dedicated to that particular wheel.

23. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 wherein ball propulsion device further includes three ball propelling wheels and the revolution speed of the [3] three wheels are independently controlled.

24. (amended) The apparatus for propelling balls of claim 13 [Wherein] wherein further includes at least one handles mounted on an elongate member.